

Art Guild Northeast
Members Meeting Minutes June 8, 2023
Putnam Town Hall, Putnam, CT
5:30pm, Social Half Hour with Refreshments, Meeting at 6pm
Greeters: Alison Ciarlante, Audrey Waters

Attendance: Audrey Waters, Cynthia Ezzell, Angela Kasper, Cheryl Newmann, Molly Harrington, Lori Smolin, Jeanne Vatour, Pam Lee, Jen Atwood, Louise Pigott, Anna Mancini, Mariah Plantier, Darlyne Wolfburg, Saphina Roller, Emida Roller, Deborah Messier, Renee Gagnon, Alla Markelova, Karen McFarlin, Julie Caprera, Alison Ciarlante, Dorothy Ford-King, Steve Veilleux, Jeff Payette, Laura Parquette, Elaine Theriault, Nancy Dougherty, Beth Johnston, Brian Tracy, Janice Leitch, Bruce Fitzback, Gretchen Maurer, and Ramona Savolis

- I. Call to Order: The Meeting was called to order by President, Julie Caprera at 6:00 p.m.
- II. Approval of minutes from May 11, 2023 meeting: A motion to approve the minutes from our May meeting was made by Nancy Dougherty and seconded by Dorothy Ford-King. All were in favor.
- III. Open Business
 - A) Treasurer's Report—Renee Gagnon: The checking account has \$7,628.29, and Paypal has an additional \$439.35. We currently have 80 members.
 - B) Marketing Report—Renee Gagnon: Nothing new to report.
 - C) Member Report—Julie Caprera for Elaine Turner: Four new members joined in May, and Three joined in June.
 - D) President's Report—Julie Caprera: 1. The Vanilla Bean exhibit had 19 artists participating, which filled all of the hooks on the new hanging system. Ten pieces of art were sold. The manager and owner of Vanilla Bean were very pleased with the beauty of the exhibit. 2. The largest workshop of the year thus far, was at Barbara Lussier's plein air class on June 2nd. It concluded with a wine and cheese social. 3. On a "sad" note, one of our members, Emida Roller, will be leaving us in July, when she moves to Georgia. She will be greatly missed! 4. Our member, Louise

Pigott is currently having a solo show at the Ruth Wells Gallery in Southbridge MA, which runs during the month of June. During her opening, she sold seven paintings! so kudos to her for that! All are invited to a closing reception at the gallery on Friday, June 30th, from 6-8p.m. 5. In other news, an opportunity for an exhibit has been proposed by the Hope Lodge in Moosup CT. More details will follow, but this venue would have no charge or commission to the Art Guild.

IV. New Business

A) Classes & Workshops—Pending for this summer

Zentangle with Pam Lee, Digital Photography with Steve Veilleux, Social Media Workshop with Gretchen Mauer & Pam Lee. Possible space for classes with under 10 participants, may be available at Pam Lee's home studio in Pomfret.

Members are encouraged to email Pam Lee with suggestions for workshops that they would be interested in taking. Also, the Putnam Town Hall may have space for us in July.

B) Exhibits

- 1) Jewett City—June (Leslie Morrissey), July (Jean Arcand), Aug (Alison Ciarlante) Jen Atwood sold 2 pieces during the month of May. Congratulations!
- 2) Jorgensen Gallery at UCONN—Lori Smolin reported that renovations have delayed a show there possibly until 2024. but plans are to have a juried show.
- 3) ARTicles—Alison Ciarlante reported that Kevin Olson had 1 sale, and Jen Atwood had 2 sales, so congratulations to them. Change out will be on June 27th (*edited date change*)
- 4) Chase Building Supply—Renee Gagnon reported that recent renovations have resulted in less space for hanging or displaying artwork, as well as the displays having a more contemporary look, but smaller pieces suitable for kitchens and bathrooms are still a viable option. No commission is charged.
- 5) Arts and Framing—Pam Lee reported that there is a summer reception being planned. Also Jeff Payette has a solo exhibit there.

- 6) The Courthouse restaurant is still exhibiting our pieces and change-out TBD.

C) Events

- 1) Putnam Fine Arts & Crafts Festival—AG Sponsor --Julie for Elaine; Coordinator is Beth Johnston. Julie reported that this will be the first use of this outside space on the lawn of the Putnam Town Hall. Seven members are participating as vendors. Thanks to a commission obtained by Elaine Turner, the Art Guild will be a major sponsor with a donation of \$1000. We will have an Art Guild tent set up, and volunteers from the Guild will be needed to man it in 2 hour shifts on Friday and Sunday. Examples of what is needed includes painting demos with acrylic, (Elaine will supply the materials), Handing out Art Guild cards and talking to people about our Guild, and selling Pluck-a-Duck tickets. Sign-up info will be emailed to members.
- 2) Putnam Superhero Saturday, Aug 5—Renee Gagnon reported that this event will take place in the Montgomery Ward building on Main St. in Putnam. Artists are needed to display their art with a “hero” theme. This has a broad interpretation! Display space will be available in the windows and also inside on easels. The event runs from 10a.m. through 2p.m. Volunteers are needed to welcome people and invite them inside. There will be a prospectus on site with a fee of \$20.
- 3) Annual AG Picnic, Aug 13—Alison Ciarlante reported that this event is a potluck, and there will be a sign-up for the food and drinks. This event is at Roseland Park in the Boathouse beside the lake. This year the Guild will provide the hamburgers.

D) Other Opportunities

- 1) Putnam Farmers’ Market—Openings Sept.&Oct.—Alison Ciarlante is the person to call if you are interested. No fee or table charge as the Guild pays for that, and 10% of sales paid to the Guild.

- 2) Putnam Pluck-A-Duck Raffle—Beth Johnston reported that more tickets are available. Keep the stubs after selling tickets and give them to Beth or Pam. There are 80 prizes. Sell by August.
- 3) Art in the Park—Outdoor Options—Alison Ciarlante reported that there are a lot of outdoor vendors this year. This is a fine art show , with no crafters. E-mail Alison for a form. Fee is \$40.
- 4) Woodstock Fair —Pam Lee reported that this event takes place on Labor Day Weekend at the Woodstock Fairgrounds. She has added a professional area for Art Guild members. Her department is arts and crafts, so entries must be painted on anything other than canvas. There are many categories of crafts listed on the Fair brochure: Dept. 16—Fine Arts and Crafts, for which Pam is the superintendent. Volunteers are needed such as “sitters”, and judges. All volunteers receive a free ticket to the fair, as well as free parking. Pam is also looking for artists to demonstrate their art during the fair, inside the exhibition hall. Sign-up sheets will be provided for all of these opportunities!

IV. Next Members Meeting—Thursday, Sept 14, Putnam Town Hall

V. Adjournment: Pam Lee made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Karen McFarlin. All were in favor.

VI. Featured Speakers: Jeff Payette & Jan Leitch—Their Art Journey